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Subject: RTC  
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RYE TOWN COUNCIL, 9TH APRIL 2018, REPORT OF ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

It may be of interest that lawyers representing the families involved in the tragic events at **Camber** in recent times have advised that they will not be proceeding with an oral hearing nor are they proceeding with any civil claims. This is now the end of this matter and the files have been closed. It is not obviously the end of the matter as far as beach safety is concerned: new signage is evident and life guards will be on duty during the high season.

The **Western Car Park** has a newly-installed Automatic Number Plate Recognition system. This is managed by SmartParking; and the machines take coin payment only. Customers can use the RINGO service to make card payments. There is multiple signage to advise how the service works; and it is on a 19-month trial.

Notice has just been issued that the application for Rye's **allotments** to be added to the Register of Community Assets has been approved. The allotments remain on the Register for a period of five years from today. This is presumably renewable until the end of the period of the 25-year lease.

In respect of The **Landgate** restoration, the forthcoming works will be managed by Rother's Property & Estates team. As soon as the timelines have been established, the intention is to invite our Action Group to a further meeting and site visit so that we can all, as partners, move the project forward.

Brenda Mason, who has been particularly helpful in bringing this difficult matter to the boil, is one of three senior managers at Rother to have retired in recent days. The Executive Directors have conducted a review - which has led to a new **senior management structure** which is now in place apart from two Heads of Service posts which have been advertised. The Monitoring Officer role is carried out by Lisa Cooper, Democratic Services Manager.

At this morning's Cabinet, a series of recommendations were sent on to Annual Council - relating to **Civil Parking Enforcement**. Assuming Council's approval on 21st May, the ball passes to ESCC and the Department for Transport. A very detailed Project programme has been published - leading to commencement of enforcement on 20th April 2020. To me, this seems an unconscionable time: but there is an enormous amount of work to be done; there is Parliamentary time to be found amidst the Brexit hotchpotch; and there are several lengthy periods set aside for consultation. There is an expectation that Sussex Police will fill some of the enforcement gap during this period.

Rother has retained its Charter for **elected member development** for the fourth time. This follows an assessment by South East Employers and relates to a member training programme which has been in place, continually refined, since 2007.

The arrival of **Council Tax bills** prompts a check of who gets what. The Band D charge in Rye is £1,929. Of that sum, ESCC receives 72.22%; East Sussex Fire 4.72%; Sussex Police Authority 8.6 %; Rother (including special expense) 10.37%; and RTC 4.09 %. This translates in cash terms to £1.52 per week to RTC and £3.85 per week to Rother DC.

Finally, the **Rye Neighbourhood Plan**. Last Wednesday's Town Meeting seemed to produce a degree of confusion. I have visited Planning Officers today and seen RDC's Regulation 14 Comments. There is praise for the comprehensive nature of the Plan, its scope and the wide

research undertaken. The Plan's housing allocations would more than meet the outstanding requirement of 67-112 homes in the period up to 2028 - although there are concerns over affordable housing provision.

It is not my business to go into the NP in detail: but I would just quote one paragraph in full from the officers' comments. "As regards supermarket provision, notwithstanding the Core Strategy position that provision should be made for a second store, it is evident that subsequent retail trends generally, evidenced by the lack of operator interest in recent years, is regarded as providing a sufficient basis for concluding that there is no reasonable expectation that any allocation would be taken up in the foreseeable future. Hence, such an allocation may well unnecessarily blight land".

Put simply, there appears to be no justification for a supermarket allocation at this time. I put it slightly differently at the Town Meeting - saying that I knew of no plans at Rother to promote such an installation at Gibbet Marsh, any more than the Council was promoting a petrol station at the top of Udimore Road.

All of us wish the Plan well and hope that it comes to a satisfactory conclusion soon. In respect of the key development sites, I hope that it will articulate the best solution as regards allocations but will be careful over this tricky possibility of blighting a tract of land. The Plan, as with the Core Strategy, is bound to be affected by unfolding events - such as the arrival of the comments of the Rye Conservation Society whose members were responding to the consultation period which ended last Friday.

DA/09/04/18